

Fossil Fool Bulletin

Fossil fools in the spotlight this week: A resource for people working to end the fossil fuel era in Australia

Published by Eve Sinton • fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com

FFB 1:11 • 13 FEBRUARY 2018

Origin alters submission to Northern Territory frack inquiry: hides well casing deformity

Lock the Gate Alliance has highlighted misleading evidence at the final round of Northern Territory fracking inquiry hearings.

LTG said that the draft Final Report for the inquiry included a diagram supplied by Origin Energy that air-brushed out reference to a well casing deformation at the much-hyped Amungee test well, near Daly Waters.

The full account of the well casing deformation was later submitted to the panel by Origin, yet was not included in the draft Final Report.

Origin admits altering evidence

When questioned by the Panel on why the original submission from Origin left off the casing deformation, Origin's statements admitted that initial evidence was altered to cover the lower than anticipated production values at its Amungee well.

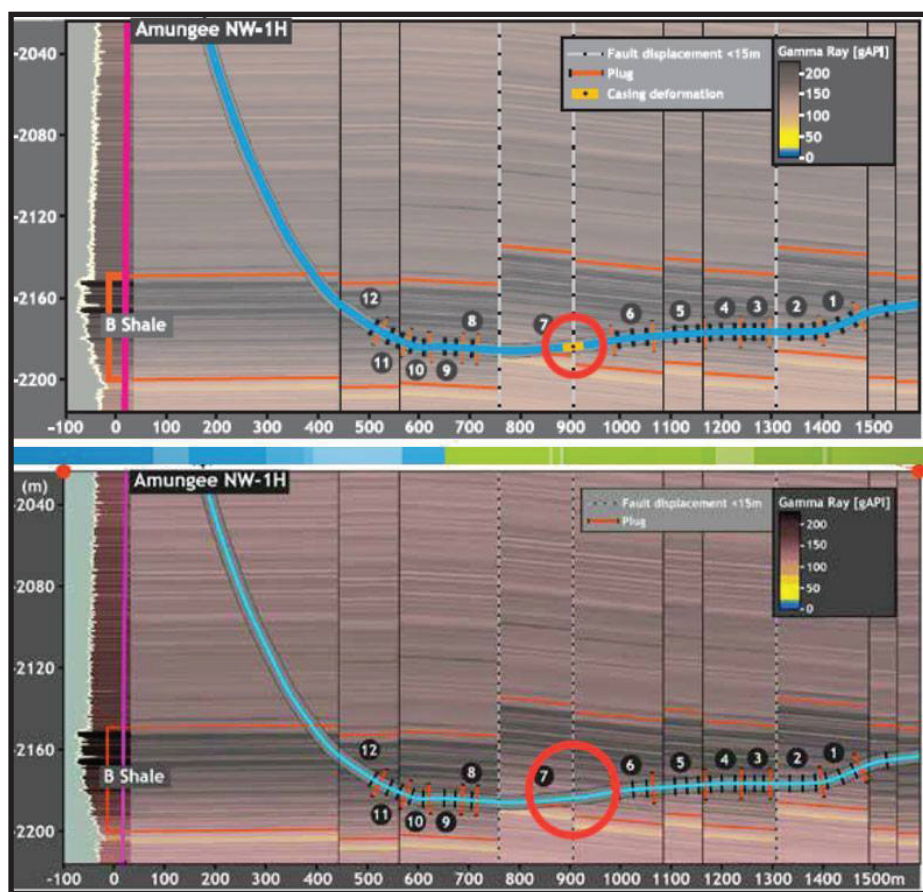
The deformed casing had contributed to the poor gas yield at the well.

Naomi Hogan of Lock the Gate said, "It is no surprise Origin would try to hide unfavourable test results that reduced the profitability of its well, but this is a scientific inquiry and hiding or altering evidence of a casing deformation should be unacceptable."

"Origin's response made it clear that the casing deformation had impacted their production levels from the Amungee well.

Most talked about NT frack site

"The Inquiry should examine the cause of pressure loss that prevented the twelfth attempted hydraulic fracture stage at this well and interrogate why altered evidence was supplied regarding the most talked-about frack site in the Territory."



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: The top diagram shows a well casing deformity, yellow, while another version (below) submitted to the NT fracking inquiry airbrushed it out.

"Fracking companies want the right to potentially drill and frack thousands of gas wells across the NT.

Territorians deserve full information about their activities and any problems underground.

"If a multi-million dollar inquiry and expert panel can't pick up on a gas company's deliberate tampering of evidence, what hope do Territorians have in holding the fracking industry to account?" said Ms Hogan.

Three year halt for exploration?

The head of the inquiry is considering whether to pause both production and exploration for three years.

The inquiry has heard massive scepticism of industry assurances, the capacity of regulators to hold a fracking industry in check, and the government's readiness to adopt all of its recommendations

APPEA said that would result in economic harm to the industry.

Linc trial hears from workers

As the Linc environmental harm case continues, the court heard that workers at the underground coal gasification plant were told to drink milk and eat yoghurt to protect their stomachs from acid.

A witness statement by former gas operator Timothy Ford, which he wrote before his death in 2015, was read out.

"We were told to drink milk in the mornings and at the start of shift... we were also told to eat yoghurt," he said.

"This was to line our guts so the acid wouldn't burn our guts.

"We were not allowed to drink the tank water and were given bottled water."

Mr Ford said the gas burnt his eyes and nose and he would need to leave the plant after work to get fresh air because it made him feel sick.

"During my time at the Linc site, would be the sickest I have been," he said.

"It is my belief that workplace was causing my sickness.

A former project manager at the UCG plant, Mariano Minotti, told the court he repeatedly warned the gas company in 2007 that the site should be shut down to avoid contamination.

In October 2007 Mr Minotti sent an email to Mr Bond recommending the site be shut down.

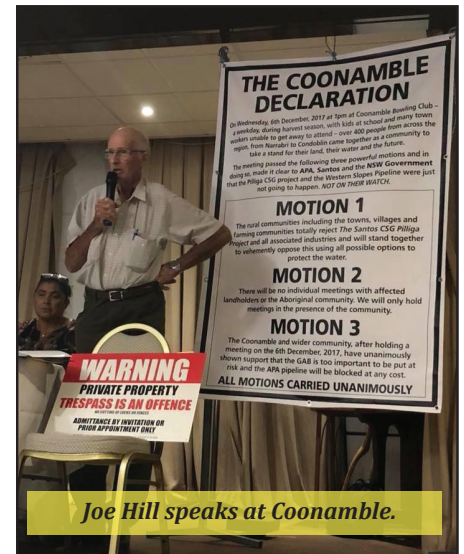
"We know for sure that the cement and/or the procedure used for the cementation of the five wells was not done properly or at least not properly considering our gas composition, temperatures and pressures," he wrote.

"When we started working at high pressure the air/gas started to escape through the cement and the casing, finding its way into the overburden and into a salty aquifer.

Mr Minotti said when it was raining he noticed bubbling in puddles on the ground at the site and set up gas monitors to work out what it was.

"It was syngas coming out to the surface," he said. (See more P 10.)

500 residents say 'no' to pipeline



Joe Hill speaks at Coonamble.

After giving APA a stern message to stop trying to divide the community (at two company meetings last week), 500 people turned up to a pipeline forum at Coonamble on Saturday.

People from Pilliga, Coonamble, Warren, Tottenham and Condobolin discussed how the community will work together to oppose APA's Western Slopes Pipeline.

The pipeline, to service the proposed Santos Narrabri gasfield, is regarded as a snake's head for massive CSG development in the area.

Members for Dubbo (Troy Grant) and Barwon (Kevin Humphries) were notably absent.

The meeting heard from Western Downs farmer Joe Hill, who has famously kept gasco's off his land for several years.

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SUCKING UP OUR GAS AT GLADSTONE



The app Shipfinder shows Surat Basin gas being loaded for export. In this screenshot from Monday 12 February, LNG tankers *Gaslog Glasgow* and *Methane Julia Louise* are loading at Curtis Island, Gladstone. *Gaslog Glasgow* is now sailing to Hainan and *Methane Julia Louise* to Tianjin.

Tribunal submissions close soon

Cloudcatcher Media shot this clip for Dr Gerilyn McCarron - her submission to the 2018 Australian Tribunal into the Human Rights Impacts of Unconventional Gas. <https://vimeo.com/253606678>

Anyone can make a submission - Submissions are open until February 18. If unconventional gas has affected you, make your voice heard internationally!

Register your submission here: <https://www.peopletribunalongas.org/register/>

To Barnaby, or not to Barnaby?

That is the question!

Is Barnaby Joyce's marital strife, and upcoming baby bundle, of public interest? And does it concern **FFB** readers?

Barnaby has long been unpopular with coal and gas activists – perceived to be in bed with the mining magnates.

Gina Rinehart is one of his greatest supporters, lavishing large donations on election campaigns.

Matt Canavan, the Minister for 'beautiful coal', is a close friend and ally.

This week Matt said the coal industry was "a beautiful industry full of beautiful people who I constantly try and fight for".

Barnaby and his new squeeze Vikki Campion were photographed, as a couple, at the christening of Matt's youngest in January 2017. Long before the beans were spilled in public.

Notable lapses of judgement

Barnaby's judgement has often been questioned. Many people felt he put mining interests well above his job as agriculture minister.

Some notable lapses include remaining in cabinet when not constitutionally elected; relocating public service functions to his electorate; and accepting a \$40,000 cheque from Gina Rinehart

(which he returned the next day).

He has been sitting on a couple of large mongrel-country acreages at Gwagebar, conveniently close to the Pilliga gasfields and the Inland Railway.

Some say his old mate, former National luminary and Eastern Star Gas exec John Anderson, tipped him off about the land's possible future value.

Now that Barnaby is infrastructure minister, he has the power to decide exactly where that railway and associated projects go.

As much as people are scandalised by Barnaby's bedroom escapades and alleged alcohol-fuelled incidents, they are worried about his competence.

For further reading, **FFB** suggests:

https://truecrimenewsweekly.com/2018/02/13/the-bonking-beetroot-deputy-pm-and-homewrecker-barnaby-joyce-allegedly-traded-sex-for-favours-with-powerful-canberra-lobbyist/amp/?_twitter_impression=true

The Bonking Beetroot

Serkan Ozturk, True Crime News Weekly, 13/02/2018

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/malcolm-turnbulls-winning-first-week-back.11189>

Malcolm Turnbull's winningest first week back

Martin Hirst, Independent Australia, 11/02/2018

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Adani this week

Federal Labor made a significant shift from its tepid support of Adani's Carmichael coal mine and is now questioning the project's feasibility.

Bill Shorten – with an eye to the upcoming Melbourne by-election – suggested Adani was promising **fake** job opportunities.

This prompted dozens of media stories and a **backlash** from the company and its supporters.

Adani claimed it had already created **800 jobs** and held an open day at its Townsville HQ. Three floors of the building are occupied by around 200 people working for Adani and its consultant AECOM.

Staunch Adani tout, Murdoch's **Townsville Bulletin**, wailed that "the fate of North Queensland is in the hands of the **basket-weaving latte sippers** of inner-city Melbourne's socialist Left.

"They are the types of **hypocrites** who step over homeless people on their way to a class to learn how to make cheese out of cashew nuts," raged the *Bully's* Damien Tomlinson.

The Australian thundered 'Shorten to pay for sell-out on Adani'

Former Queensland ALP candidate **Mike Brunner** said, "If you turn your back on the Adani coalmine, say goodbye to north Queensland at the next federal election.

"To win one seat in **frickin Melbourne**, they have wiped out their chances of two or three seats here in the coal belt."

A team of **ABC** journalists working on a series about **India** for Radio National were refused **visas** due to "**the Adani story**". An Indian government source admitted the reason for the denial.

Last year, journalists working on a **TV exposé** of Adani were quickly frog-marched out of India.

Obviously, Mr Adani has the power to shut down media enquiries in his own country. It must be frustrating to deal with the **Australian media**, despite the generous support of the huge **Murdoch** stable.

Finally, any government subsidy for a Galilee Basin railway seems sunk, with **Aurizon** withdrawing its **Naif** application. Aurizon had no potential customers.

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THIS WEEK'S BEST READS:



Adding fuel to the Pilliga Forest fire

As climate change adds intensity to bushfires, Santos intends to increase its methane-emitting gas wells in the Pilliga Forrest.

INDEPENDENTAUSTRIAUA.NET

<https://independentaustralia.net/environment/environment-display/adding-fuel-to-the-pilliga-forest-fire.11165#.WngsYkCDJHs.facebook>

Adding fuel to the Pilliga forest fire

Rosemary Vass, Independent Australia, 05/02/2018

<https://www.theage.com.au/opinion/no-one-is-buying-the-minerals-councils-coal-slime-20180208-h0vrgc.html>

No one is buying the Minerals Council's coal 'slime'

Simon Holmes a Court, The Age, 09/02/2018

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/adani-coal-mine-matt-canavans-symbolic-war-that-went-wrong-20180125-h0oizp.html>

Adani coal mine: Matt Canavan's symbolic war that went wrong

Richard Denniss, SMH, 10/02/2018

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2018/02/10/shutting-down-the-adani-port/15181812005792>

Shutting down the Adani port

Nicholas Avery, The Saturday Paper, 10/02/2018

In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 45,000 words of news for your convenience. Click on the [links](#) to view original articles. (\$) = subscription may be required

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/resources-giant-adani-faces-environmental-evaluation-over-abbot-point/news-story/0d49da399374c27c201ca559f4e40825?login=1>

Resources giant Adani faces environmental evaluation over Abbot Point

Mark Schliebs, *The Australian*, 05/02/2018

Indian resources giant Adani is facing a widespread environmental evaluation that takes into account “historical” events at its Abbot Point port operations, and has taken the Queensland government to court in a bid to stop it. Last week, it emerged that Adani had redacted the higher of two laboratory tests results over the contamination in documents submitted to the department as part of the post-cyclone investigation into its discharges.

Adani has denied any cover-up of the contamination.

Lawyers for Abbot Point Bulkcoal have told Queensland’s Planning and Environment Court that the cost of carrying out the evaluation, as demanded, could exceed \$2 million.

On December 12, the court ordered the decision to issue a notice to conduct the environmental evaluation be stayed until the appeal is determined.

Senator Canavan said it was appropriate for the Queensland government to investigate claims that a contamination report was redacted, but added: “Adani deny all claims that they have falsified reports”.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/bill-shorten-invited-to-north-queensland-to-clarify-labors-position-on-adani-mine/news-story/da2dc0005d62dc458b238387c8c595ae>

Bill Shorten invited to North Queensland to clarify Labor’s position on Adani mine

Clare Armstrong and AAP, *Townsville Bulletin*, 06/02/2018

Bill Shorten has been invited to visit North Queensland and “explain” his party’s position on the Adani megamine.

Queensland LNP senators Matt Canavan and Ian Macdonald and Capricornia MP Michelle Landry issued the invitation to the federal Opposition Leader yesterday.

“If (Mr Shorten) had any guts, he’d



Adani’s Abbot Point coal terminal adjoins sensitive wetlands. Pic: Google Earth

come up to North Queensland, explain himself and talk to the people who want a job in the mining industry, talk to the businesses who’s futures rely on this industry going ahead,” Senator Canavan said. “Do not hide, Bill Shorten, from the people of Queensland.”

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/national/shorten-plibersek-distance-federal-labor-from-adani-coalmine-in-queensland/news-story/fde0ab133bf31b-8915f4e203f9494dc5>

Shorten, Plibersek distance federal Labor from Adani coalmine in Queensland

Claire Bickers, *News Corp*, 06/02/2018

Bill Shorten has suggested Queensland workers are being led on with fake promises about jobs that will never appear while further distancing federal Labor from the Adani coalmine.

Mr Shorten stopped short of formally opposing the project but reissued a call for the Government to investigate claims Adani submitted an “altered laboratory report” when it appealed a fine for the contamination of wetlands near the Great Barrier Reef.

In December, community legal service group, Environmental Justice Australia, asked the consumer watchdog to investigate whether Adani had misled consumers by spruiking 10,000 jobs that it claims would be created by the mine.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/adani-chairman-says-he-believes-in-climate-change-but-coal-will-help-india>

Adani chairman says he believes in climate change but coal will help India

Stefan Armbruster, *SBS*, 06/02/2018

The chairman of Indian conglomerate Adani has defended company’s plan to build one of the world’s largest coal mines in Australia and said he would not be swayed by what he called “vicious personal attacks”.

“It is my power of purpose that keeps alive my will to win,” the Adani Group chairman said.

“Never let criticism derail your purpose or promise,” he advised students at the Shri Ram College of Commerce Business Conclave.

In his speech, Mr Adani said coal power generation is for the Indian national good while being one of the world’s lowest per capita carbon emitters.

“I will be the first to agree that global warming is a challenge we have to tackle and cleaner energy is critical, however, it is possible to believe in both coal and renewables,” he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-06/visa-fiasco-poses-questions-about-indian-democracy-adani/9399700>

‘It’s about Adani’: Did India deny me a journalist’s visa because of a story?

Amruta Slee, *ABC*, 06/02/2018

For months colleagues and I have been working on a series of programs about India since independence for

Radio National. We received a grant to travel to the subcontinent and interview the country's best and brightest: historians, economists, investigative journalists, satirists, environmentalists, academics, architects and student leaders.

With days to go, a highly placed government source admitted there was a problem [with our visas]: "It's about the Adani story."

We never got our visas. We haven't had an official explanation.

When we emailed our interviewees to say we had not been granted visas and would have to cancel the trip, the responses were swift and astute. "I'm so, so sorry but I'm not surprised." "Is this about the Adani expose?"

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/labor-devising-queensland-rescue-package-ahead-of-likely-decision-to-reject-adani-20180206-p4yzhx.html>

Labor devising Queensland 'rescue' package ahead of likely decision to reject Adani

Nicole Hasham, SMH, 06/02/2018

An impending decision by Labor to formally oppose the controversial Adani coalmine would come with a jobs package for Queensland to head off claims the party is selling out struggling towns.

A senior Labor source told Fairfax Media that Labor was "developing a plan for central and North Queensland [to support] their economic future".

A Queensland Labor MP told Fairfax Media that jobs in renewable energy, manufacturing, defence maintenance and tourism could be created in place of the foregone mining jobs.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/community-leaders-fire-back-at-bill-shorten-after-adani-fake-jobs-claim/news-story/d15a4883e7688f5ceeafa10be0e8f9ca>

Community leaders fire back at Bill Shorten after Adani 'fake jobs' claim

Matthew Killoran, Courier Mail, 07/02/2018

Community leaders from north and central Queensland have hit back at Bill Shorten for putting jobs at risk to win votes in leafy Melbourne.

Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill, a Labor member, said she was disappointed by Mr Shorten's comments.

Adani, contractors as well as the Townsville and Rockhampton mayors said the jobs were real and already starting to put money into the economy.

Adani hit back saying that it had already created 800 jobs and was

already paying \$7.2 million in salaries each month.

Rockhampton Mayor Margaret Strelow said the jobs were real, but activists were "a powerful force expertly using social media to create an agenda and influence policy".

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/editorial-real-jobs-at-risk-if-bill-betrays-queenslanders-on-adani/news-story/fb3dc70f22ff9d8fb7cbbcdc1c53203c>

Editorial: Real jobs at risk if Bill betrays Queenslanders on Adani

Courier Mail, 07/02/2018

The next federal election, which could be held as early as late this year, will, to a large extent, be decided in Queensland.

If Labor wants to have a chance in these seats it holds or pick up gains from the Coalition it will need a pro-Queensland, pro-jobs program.

Mr Shorten looks beholden to minority views set by the Greens thousands of kilometres away. No doubt the Adani mine must stack up financially, but he is deliberately trashing the project with no regard to those whose futures rely on it.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/shorten-to-pay-for-sellout-on-adani-say-queensland-voters/news-story/4288c535e71ac796a0612e659fafbce0>

Shorten to pay for sell-out on Adani, say Queensland voters

Jamie Walker, The Australian, 07/02/2018

Mike Brunner has a message for Labor and its Melbourne-based leader: if you turn your back on the Adani coalmine, say goodbye to north Queensland at the next federal election.

"To win one seat in frickin Melbourne, they have wiped out their chances of two or three seats here in the coal belt," the life-long Labor man said. "I tell you what, I wouldn't want to be running the Labor campaign in Capricornia, Dawson or Herbert.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/feb/06/labor-pushes-for-federal-investigation-into-adani>

Labor pushes for federal investigation into Adani

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 07/02/2018

Labor is pressing the Turnbull government for a federal investigation into Adani, arguing the commonwealth has responsibility for sensitive wetlands contaminated near the Great Barrier Reef after Cyclone Debbie.

On Tuesday in parliament, pressing for a federal investigation of Adani's

conduct, the shadow environment minister, Tony Burke, pointed out that environmental approvals for the Adani Abbot Point terminal placed conditions on the project, including the downstream impacts on the Caley Valley wetlands.

But the environment and energy minister, Josh Frydenberg, insisted the "primary regulatory authority" for the project was the Queensland government.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/bill-shorten-questions-adanis-finance-and-environmental-credentials/news-story/b538de8b9c172888cb285f1f65e5303d>

Adani hits back: Bill Shorten questioning their finance and environmental credentials

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 06/02/2018

[An Adani] spokesman said Adani Australia remained "committed" to the Carmichael project and "looked forward to a time" when more people in places like Townsville could join the team.

LNP Senator Matt Canavan said, "If (Mr Shorten) had any guts, he'd come up to North Queensland, explain himself and talk to the people who want a job in the mining industry, talk to the businesses who's futures rely on this industry going ahead".

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-07/palaszczuk-calls-on-adani-to-prove-mine-finance-in-place/9404744>

Adani needs to prove Carmichael coal mine finance and jobs promises, Anastacia Palaszczuk says

Josh Bavas, ABC, 07/02/2018

The Queensland Premier is calling on Adani to prove it is moving ahead with the Carmichael coal mine as federal Labor leader Bill Shorten continues to cast doubt on the project.

Anastacia Palaszczuk called on Adani to prove it has the finance and that the project is progressing.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/townsville-mayor-jenny-hill-gives-adani-sixmonth-deadline-for-coalmine/news-story/659b-938b3aa239ef8048c00c4ff76c2d>

Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill gives Adani six-month deadline for coalmine

Jamie Walker, The Australian, 08/02/2018

Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill says coalmine developer Adani must start building its vast open cut mine by August, as a second Labor Party leader tore into the Indian company for missing deadlines.

Ms Hill, an ALP member who insists



Adani opened its doors to Townsville media last week. Photo: a still from Adani video

she is non-aligned as mayor, said Adani had to finalise its financing and crack on with ground engineering at the Carmichael site in central Queensland or face a further erosion in trust.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/queensland-labor-mps-fight-back-on-adani-after-bill-shorten-attack/news-story/1bab850b-71ca5c8243ec828b533d29ac>

Queensland Labor MPs fight back on Adani after Bill Shorten attack

Trenton Ackers & Matthew Killoran, Courier Mail, 08/02/2018

A strong [Labor] contingent, particularly in Queensland say outright opposition to the mine would hurt the party and are fighting to stop this happening. While the group is comfortable with Mr Shorten talking tough on Adani and questioning if the jobs are coming, tapping into a frustration in the community, they argue actively opposing it is a mistake.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville-mayor-calls-on-labor-to-support-working-class-mining-jobs/news-story/7471b2e6f322d417d607f455d62d335c>

Townsville mayor calls on Labor to support working class mining jobs

Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 08/02/2018

Mayor Jenny Hill has lashed Bill Shorten's play for Green votes at the expense of North Queensland jobs and Adani's Carmichael coal project as Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk sided with her federal leader and challenged Adani to start construction.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/labor-questions-adanis-explanation-of-port-discharge/news-story/91bf7b2934fe88a52aab518be7665859>

Labor questions Adani's explanation of port discharge

Joe Kelly, The Australian, 08/02/2018

Labor's environment spokesman Tony Burke wants an investigation into Indian mining giant Adani to determine whether it "provided false information" over contaminated discharge at its Abbot Point port operations.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/bill-shorten-compares-adani-to-clive-palmers-queensland-nickel/news-story/b2b22ee0734902a2240aa780399a3670>

Bill Shorten compares Adani to Clive Palmer's Queensland Nickel

Matthew Killoran, Courier-Mail, 08/02/2018

Opposition leader Bill Shorten has compared the Adani mega-mine's promise of jobs to Clive Palmer's failed Queensland Nickel refinery.

Mr Shorten said the party's position was clear - the project had stacked up commercially and environmentally. But he said Adani securing funding and proceeding was "a big if".

"I just don't want people pinning their hopes on jobs here being let down. We saw that with Clive Palmer and Queensland Nickel," he said.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/bill-shorten-switches-focus-to-infrastructure-jobs-as-he-cops-flak-over-adani-mine-comments/news-story/8f04f0e-4340ae5478e3ae608e876ac13>

Bill Shorten switches focus to infrastructure jobs as he cops flak over Adani mine comments

Matthew Killoran, Courier-Mail, 09/02/2018

Labor will promise a series of construction and infrastructure projects in regional Queensland cities hit by high unemployment in a bid to create blue-collar jobs.

Mr Shorten will arrive in Gladstone Friday morning to announce \$100 million funding for the Gladstone Port

Access Road, which will create 200 construction jobs and enable the port to expand its capacity.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/adani-opens-its-doors-to-show-that-work-is-under-way-on-mine/news-story/c4717565c67ce662494e71a16bb253e>

Adani opens its doors to show that work is under way on mine

Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 09/02/2018

Adani Australia opened the doors of its Townsville offices to the Chamber of Commerce and media yesterday to demonstrate its commitment to the Carmichael project.

But when it comes to the start of construction, either on a rail line or a coal mine, the official line is "further ramp-up" depends on the outcome of court proceedings and land deals.

It is understood Adani is still seeking finance but has begun planning and early works.

The Townsville office in Tomlins St is the headquarters for the Carmichael project team.

Three floors of the eight-level building are occupied by some 200 people working for Adani and consultants AECOM.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/senator-canavan-accuses-labor-of-disrespecting-north-queensland/news-story/a155cc6bcf9866ea255de02ad1fded01>

Senator Canavan accuses Labor of disrespecting North Queensland over Adani Carmichael coal mine project

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 09/02/2018

Queensland LNP senator Matt Canavan says Bill Shorten's changing stance on Adani mine is "grossly disrespectful" to Townsville.

The Resources and Northern Australia Minister said the Labor leader had "turned his back" on the region.

Senator Canavan also questioned the six-month deadline Mayor Jenny Hill issued Adani to start building the mine in the Galilee Basin.

"It seems arbitrary and unhelpful to me; the idea that it's Adani's fault for the delays that have occurred is just not true," he said.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/opinion/basketweaving-latte-sippers-of-melbourne-to-decide-ngs-fate/news-story/57a35d57ef81c654e7124bb49fade709>

Basket-weaving latte sippers of Melbourne to decide NQ's fate

Damien Tomlinson, Townsville Bulletin, 06/02/2018

The fate of North Queensland is in the

hands of the basket-weaving latte sippers of inner-city Melbourne's socialist Left.

What's drowned out in the Stop Adani social media blizzard are the voices of regional Queensland communities for whom the Carmichael mine isn't just a few jobs, but the kiss of life.

The city's bored, entitled, wealthy white-collar do-gooders are seemingly so tired of their cultural and social riches that they have decided to make Melbourne the safe space of the freakiest of the fringe Left.

They are the types of hypocrites who step over homeless people on their way to a class to learn how to make cheese out of cashew nuts.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-09/aurizon-pulls-pin-on-naif-loan-application-galilee-basin-rail/9414074>

Aurizon pulls pin on NAIF loan application for Galilee Basin rail line

Josh Bavas, ABC, 09/02/2018

In another blow to the development of Queensland's Galilee Basin, Australia's largest rail freight company says it will withdraw its application for a Federal Government loan to build a massive rail corridor.

In a statement issued this morning, Aurizon CEO Andrew Harding said the company was unlikely to secure enough customer contracts to go ahead.

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/mining-and-resources/aurizon-to-withdraw-funding-bid-for-rail-project-20180208-p4yzsu.html>

Aurizon to withdraw funding bid for rail project

Darren Gray, SMH, 09/02/2018

Rail freight operator Aurizon will withdraw an application for funding to assist with a rail project integral to the development of the Adani coal mine in Queensland's Galilee Basin.

But managing director Andrew Harding said Aurizon remained in favour of the development of the Galilee Basin.

https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/feb/09/setback-for-adani-as-aurizon-withdraws-loan-request-for-rail-line?CMP=share_btn_fb

Setback for Adani as Aurizon withdraws loan request for rail line

Amy Remeikis, The Guardian, 09/02/2018

Rail freight company Aurizon has withdrawn its application for federal funding to build the Galilee Basin rail line, in a further blow to the prospects of the Adani coalmine.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/australia-at-foreign-investment-crossroads-warns-adani-boss/news-story/2d159aa9e-0223352a89142e1aa4296b1>

Australia at foreign investment crossroads, warns Adani boss

Jamie Walker & Micheal McKenna, The Australian, 10/02/2018

Adani's local boss has warned that Australia is at a "crossroads" on foreign investment as mining union leaders urged Bill Shorten to tone down his criticism of the giant Indian energy producer.

Breaking his silence after a week of attacks by the Opposition Leader on the \$16.5 billion Carmichael coalmine, Adani Australia chief executive Jayakumar Janakaraj called for consistency and predictability in investment policy.

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/adani-coal-mine-matt-canavans-symbolic-war-that-went-wrong-20180125-h0oizp.html>

Adani coal mine: Matt Canavan's symbolic war that went wrong

Richard Denniss, SMH, 10/02/2018

The Turnbull government's problem is that the Adani coal mine has become a symbol that unites all voters worried about climate change, corporate welfare, multinational tax avoidance and the need to create jobs in regional Australia. It wasn't supposed to be this way.

The Adani mine is a symbol of the blinkered vision that the Coalition has about our economic future and the best way to create jobs in regional Australia. Far more Australians work in tourism than in coal mining. If the Coalition took the budget, or regional job creation, seriously, it would look at all the ways to create jobs in north Queensland, compare the costs of a range of projects and programs, and choose the policies that create the most jobs per taxpayer dollar spent. But despite years of telling Australians that a highly automated coal mine far from population centres is a great way to create jobs, the Coalition is yet to produce any comparative research to suggest that \$1 billion for a coal rail line would create more jobs than \$1 billion invested in tourism, manufacturing, education or anything else.

It's easy to see why every party other than the Coalition opposed elements of the Adani mine in the recent Queensland election. What's impossible to see is the case for the Turnbull government sticking with its support for the mine. Bill Shorten mustn't be able to believe his luck.

<https://www.northernstar.com.au/news/hippie-towns-bizarre-boycott-letter-to-councils/3331605/>

Hippie town's 'bizarre' boycott letter to councils

Troy Kippen, Daily Mercury, 10/02/2018

A hippie town about 1300km south of the proposed Carmichael Coal Mine has sent a "bizarre" letter to two northern councils, calling on a boycott of businesses affiliated with Adani.

An engineer associated with both councils and the coal mining industry has fired back - suggesting Byron Shire Council was probably just angry there was drug testing on mine sites.

"Maybe they are just returning fire for not letting bong smokers into the mines," Field Engineers general manager David Hartigan said, lightly.

The Daily Mercury understands the letters were sent to all Australian councils after a resolution was passed at a Byron council meeting to not support any business that had an association with the Adani in protest of its Carmichael mine project.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/queensland-mining-council-calls-for-adani-support-20180210-p4yzvi.html>

Queensland mining council calls for Adani support

Sonia Kohlbacher, Brisbane Times, 10/02/2018

Queensland Resources Council boss Ian Macfarlane has called on Annastacia Palaszczuk's Labor government to put its weight behind Adani as it faces further setbacks to its proposed coal mine.

"Recent Queensland government statements regarding the development of the Galilee Basin and Adani have been confusing," he said on Friday.

"Premier Palaszczuk and her ministers need to be categorical and emphatic in their support of the Queensland resources sector and its potential for expansion, including the Adani mine."

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/opinion/why-adani-will-go-ahead/news-story/de9a2cda-3ca1224c7f44383df6140e88>

Why Adani will go ahead

Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 10/02/2018

Adani is going ahead.

I reach this view after joining a Townsville Chamber of Commerce executive and other media on a tour, of sorts, of Adani's Townsville offices.

If they are not going ahead, they put on a good show.

<http://www.afr.com/news/politics/how-adani-became-the-lightning-rod-for-activists-in-their-war-against-coal-20180208-h0vr8>

How Adani became the lightning rod for activists in their war against coal

Mark Ludlow, *AFR*, 09/02/2018

When Indian company Adani lodged its application for a new mine in the Galilee Basin with the Queensland government in October 2010, few thought the Carmichael mine would be at the centre of the national political debate almost a decade later.

The other players in the Galilee Basin, including another Indian company GVK and Hancock Coal as well as Clive Palmer's Waratah Coal have flown below the radar. Adani is the trailblazer to open up the region and its thermal coal deposits.

Michael Roche, former Queensland Resources Council chief executive and now a strategic adviser to law firm McCullough Robertson, says he's not surprised that almost a decade later the future of the Adani project remains unresolved.

He says environmental and anti-coal activists had shown how effective they could be in slowing down and attempting to stop projects.

But Roche warns the battle won't be over if Adani walks away from its Carmichael project.

"If they [activists] win and Adani walks or Adani sells, don't expect that the activists are going to pack up their satchels and move on. They are going to be looking for the next win. So greenfield projects, in particular in the Surat Basin, are probably going to be next," he says.

Roche says if Adani's Carmichael project falls over it would scupper plans to open up the entire Galilee Basin.

<http://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2018/02/10/shutting-down-the-adani-port/15181812005792>

Shutting down the Adani port

Nicholas Avery, *The Saturday Paper*, 10/02/2018

The stories from folks at the blockade camp – talking about their times in Tasmania, at the Leard, at the Bentley – acted as inspiration. These were the lessons and models of success on which our action was based.

I'm saddened to read the Adani narrative on me and all the others who have put themselves on the line to ensure coal stays in the ground in the Galilee Basin. They say that we – locals, doctors, First Nations peoples, farmers, teachers and students – are reckless,

militant and non-peaceful protesters. This couldn't be further from the truth.

The Adani line must be seen for what it is: a direct attempt by a multinational corporation and its skills to divide communities on one of the most thoroughly collective issues we face, the need for just transition from industries that wreck the planet to sustainable practices, with an unwavering focus on making sure workers do not fall through the cracks of sectoral change.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/adani-mine-future-still-up-in-the-air-as-business-and-politics-collide/news-story/49be803efdf3778dc180b3c626e039cc?login=1>

Adani mine future still up in the air as business and politics collide

John McCarthy, *Courier-Mail*, 10/02/2018

Coalmining has always been political, but never like this. Never has a Queensland coalmine been the central issue of a Melbourne by-election.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/adani-folly-puts-labor-in-a-bind/news-story/d760ab697abe9ffc2ec44a2b19dfb>

Adani folly puts Labor in a bind

Amie Walker & Michael McKenna, *The Australian*, 10/02/2018

As mayor of the hardscrabble north Queensland city and a card-carrying member of the ALP, [Townsville Major Jenny] Hill is locked in what she sees as a struggle for the life and soul of her community, as well as the values of the Labor movement at large.

The flashpoint is the Adani group's Carmichael coalmine, 600km southwest of Townsville, which will be the biggest in the southern hemisphere if it goes ahead.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/feb/11/labor-fires-back-at-adani-australia-ceo-over-foreign-investment-claims>

Labor fires back at Adani Australia CEO over foreign investment claims

Guardian staff, 11/02/2018

Labor has rejected claims it is destabilising Australia's ability to attract investment through its growing scepticism of the Adani coalmine.

In comments to the *West Australian*, [Adani Australia CEO Jeyakumar] Janakaraj warned that international competition for large resources projects was intensifying, following Donald Trump's move to slash the US corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%.

"Everybody is fighting for that place in the top 10 in the world for investment destinations and money is limited," he reportedly said.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/townsville-enterprise-ceo-says-adani-economic-benefits-are-widespread/news-story/5d9174b6f6ce820e9aa17baea653d8>

Townsville Enterprise CEO says Adani economic benefits are widespread

Sam Bidey, *Townsville Bulletin*, 12/02/2018

Townsville Enterprise CEO Patricia O'Callaghan has lashed Adani critics, saying the Carmichael coal mine will reap economic benefits for the North and the rest of Australia.

In a fiery interview on Channel 9's Today Show early yesterday, Ms O'Callaghan said environmental arguments were moot as the Indian miner had obtained all regulatory approvals.

Ms O'Callaghan said Townsville Enterprise was not only supportive of Adani but also of several other coal mines ready to follow suit with the opening of the Galilee Basin.

<http://www.news.com.au/finance/business/mining/pressure-builds-on-adani-to-start-construction-of-its-165-billion-carmichael-coal-mine/news-story/4c650976d7adc18799b8697e5662ba59>

Pressure builds on Adani to start construction of its \$16.5 billion Carmichael coal mine

Charis Chang, *News Corp*, 12/02/2018

Australians appear to be losing patience with Adani as scepticism grows about whether construction of its mega coal mine will begin and deliver much-needed jobs.

Funding appears to have dried up for the \$16.5 billion coal mine in Queensland's Galilee Basin, with yet another setback revealed last week.

Rail operator Aurizon walked away from plans to build a rail line linked to the mine, withdrawing its application for a \$5 billion government-funded loan from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF).

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-13/government-considered-prosecution-against-adani/9423152>

Government considered prosecuting Adani over CEO's links to company convicted over environmental disaster

Mark Willacy & Alexandra Blucher, *ABC*, 13/02/2018

An internal investigation by the Federal Environment Department has found Indian mining giant Adani "may have been negligent" in failing to disclose its Australian CEO's links to a company convicted of environmental offences in Africa.

The department recommended Adani be "cautioned". But the company has told the ABC it never received any cau-

tion from the Government and that it fully cooperated with the department on the matter.

COAL ROCKS ON

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/nut-coal-project-given-approval-despite-stone-pagoda-concerns-20180206-p4yzi9.html>

'Nut coal' project given approval despite stone pagoda concerns

Peter Hannam, SMH, 07/02/2013

The NSW Planning Assessment Commission has given approval for the reopening of a coal mine in a region of the Blue Mountains that it had previously deemed to be "incompatible with the significant conservation of the site".

The commission's support for the extension of the Invincible Coal Mine also came despite its conclusion that the current state of rehabilitation on the site had been "suboptimal" and a requirement to fill three residual voids was "unlikely to be achieved".

Castlereagh Coal, the project's owners since 2015, won a reversal of the commission's verdict by pledging to contain the mine's additional disturbance to 38 hectares and to complete unfinished rehabilitation work.

Jeremy Buckingham, Greens resources spokesman, said it was "bonkers" to approve reviving an old coal mine in "the incredible Gardens of Stone ... just so [Manildra] can convert their Shoalhaven flour mill from gas to old fashioned coal boilers".

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/feb/07/nsw-court-to-hear-landmark-challenge-to-coalmine-over-climate-change-impact>

NSW court to hear 'landmark' challenge to coalmine over climate change impact

Adam Morton, The Guardian, 07/02/2018

In what is described as a landmark case, a NSW court will be asked to overturn a decision to extend the life of a coalmine on the grounds the state government failed to properly consider the impact on the climate.

The case is brought by a community group from the tiny Hunter Valley village of Wollar, which it says has been devastated by the development and gradual expansion of the Wilpinjong coalmine over the past decade.

Lawyer David Morris, from the Environmental Defenders Office NSW, said it is a landmark case. "It is difficult to think of a more important consideration than its contribution to climate change."



Wollar at dawn. Photo: Lock the Gate

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5214445/significant-landmark-coal-mine-case-to-test-climate-change-commitment/?cs=5951>

The tiny village of Wollar takes on a multinational mining company and NSW Government in court

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 07/02/2018

The village of Wollar takes on a multinational coal company and the NSW Government on Thursday in a landmark first test of legislation requiring greenhouse gas emissions to be adequately assessed in coal mine approvals.

The NSW Land and Environment Court case of Wollar Progress Association v Wilpinjong Coal is "very significant" as governments, companies and sections of the community struggle to accept Australia's obligations under the Paris agreement in response to climate change, said climate scientist Professor Will Steffen.

The Environmental Defenders Office NSW said the Wollar/Wilpinjong case is the first time clause 14 of the mining State Environmental Planning Policy – which requires the consent authority to assess greenhouse gas emissions in line with state policies – is tested.

It will argue the NSW Government has set a net-zero emissions goal by 2050 against which coal mine approvals need to be assessed.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/feb/09/coalminers-given-approval-to-clear-nearly-10-of-endangered-forest-commission-told>

Coalminers given approval to clear nearly 10% of endangered forest, commission told

Am Morton, The Guardian, 09/02/2018

Coalmining companies were given approval to clear nearly 10% of what is now a critically endangered forest in the NSW Hunter Valley over the past decade, according to evidence before a government commission.

It has prompted calls for politicians and bureaucrats to place greater weight on cumulative damage before giving developments the green light.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-10/coal-miner-denied-work-place-accident-pay-due-to-being-a-casual/9417932>

Coal miner denied workplace accident pay because of casual status

Lorna Knowles & John Stewart, ABC, 10/02/2018

Coal miner Simon Turner is facing life on the street after a workplace accident left him disabled and destitute.

Simon Turner has been deemed totally incapacitated. He says mine owner and employer have refused to pay him industry standard accident compensation. Mr Turner is leading a class action of more than 400 miners.

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<https://au.news.yahoo.com/qld/a/38845935/qld-gas-worker-guilty-over-radiation-burns/>

Qld gas worker fined over radiation burns

Christine Flatley, AAP, 06/02/2018

An engineer at a Queensland drilling site has been fined \$15,000 after exposing a colleague to unsafe levels of radiation.

Victor Mokaya pleaded guilty on Tuesday in Brisbane Magistrates Court to two charges under the Radiation Safety Act over the incident at a coal seam gas site at Chinchilla in February 2014.

Schlumberger was fined \$162,500 last year for its role in the incident on the Darling Downs.

<https://www.northernstar.com.au/news/black-tar-seen-seeping-up-at-linc-energy-site/3330271/>

'Black tar' seen seeping up at Linc Energy site

John Weekes, News Regional, 08/02/2018

A concrete pumper says he saw 'black tar' seeping up at a Linc Energy site and raised concerns with the company.

Robert Arnold has told a court he noticed some odd occurrences when he went to the Chinchilla site in late 2007. "We saw bubbles coming up ... and a black tar substance. We commented back to Linc about it."

"A few of us went over and had a look ... basically it just looked like a heavy black oil ... it was in the puddles as well, in the same area," Mr Arnold added.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-08/linc-energy-trial-hears-company-told-workers-drink-milk/9410180>

Linc Energy workers told to drink milk and eat yogurt to avoid acid burns, trial hears

ABC, 08/02/2018

Workers at an underground coal gasification plant on Queensland's Western Darling Downs were told to drink milk and eat yoghurt to protect their stomachs from acid, a court has heard.

A witness statement by former gas operator Timothy Ford was read to the court, which he prepared in 2015 before his death.

He said the gas burnt his eyes and nose and he would need to leave the plant after work to get fresh air because it made him feel sick.

"We were told to drink milk in the mornings and at the start of shift... we



Linc diesel wasn't so clean after all.

were also told to eat yoghurt," he said. "The purpose of this was to line our guts so the acid wouldn't burn our guts.

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/workers-felt-sick-at-linc-plant/3331428/>

Workers felt sick at Linc plant

John Weekes, News Regional, 10/02/2018

Pollution trial jurors have been shown internal Linc Energy memos and emails between company bosses.

One email discussed on Friday appeared to show two operators reported feeling unwell after working in a wellhead in late 2007.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/property/clive-palmer-sprees-mockery-of-bailout/news-story/20d938536d6a17096ce1d72b4125ffa9>

Clive Palmer spree 'makes mockery' of bailout

Lisa Allen, The Australian, 09/02/2018

Clive Palmer has been accused of "making a mockery" of the taxpayer bailout of worker's entitlements at his collapsed Queensland Nickel after the businessman is believed to have splurged on a fleet of luxury cars and a waterfront mansion.

As reported in The Australian last week, the former federal MP last week bought a \$7.4 million mansion from Peter Bond, the former boss of Linc Energy, now in liquidation.

Brisbane agents said the home was extensively damaged during the 2011 Brisbane River floods, with millions spent renovating it.

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www.facebook.com/Fossil-Fool-Bulletin-1099502903513222/

<https://independentaustralia.net/environment/environment-display/adding-fuel-to-the-pilliga-forest-fire.11165#.WngsYkCDJfS.facebook>

Adding fuel to the Pilliga forest fire

Rosemary Vass, Independent Australia, 05/02/2018

As climate change adds intensity to bushfires, Santos intends to significantly increase its methane-emitting gas wells in the Pilliga Forrest, potentially "adding fuel to the fire".

Locals and firefighters from across the State know that a Pilliga fire is a risky, unpredictable and challenging beast, because they have been called to the North West on a regular basis to face it down. Now – and certainly in the future – if Santos gets approval for their coal seam gas (CSG) wells in the North Eastern part of the Pilliga, close to Narrabri, that danger to residents and firefighters will increase enormously. There are already approximately 30 "exploratory" wells with flares, a small gas power station, pipelines and other infrastructure in the forest that pose a significant increase in the risk. Santos proposes 850 such wells plus infrastructure if they get approval from NSW State Planning Department. It's madness.

<http://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5211323/eco-warriors-singing-out-against-csg-in-the-pilliga-photos-video/?cs=159>

Ecopella warriors sing out against CSG in the Pilliga forest

Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 06/02/2018

A group of eco-warriors, who fight with their voices and not their fists, visited the Pilliga forest on the weekend to sing out against the proposed coal seam gas development.

For two decades the Ecopellas, an a capella group who sing environmental-themed songs, have been performing around the country supporting various environmental causes.

<http://www.theland.com.au/story/5212168/al-lied-gas-protestors-gather/>

Gas protestors converge on Coonamble

Daniel Pedersen, The Land, 08/02/2018

Three meetings in relation to a controversial proposed gas pipeline across the Pilliga are convening, or have already convened, this week.

APA Group, contracted to build the pipeline that will carry Santos-mined gas into a national network, has organised two public consultation meetings, in Tottenham yesterday and Coonamble today.

The third, on Saturday, has been organ-

ised by a group against the pipeline, known as the Great Artesian Basin Protection Group.

One of GABPG's convenors, David Chadwick, said APA had clearly stated it would break down future meetings into smaller consultations and he considered that a divide and conquer approach in a bid to get APA's project across the line.

"That is what we don't want," he said.

<https://www.busseltonmail.com.au/story/5214137/calenergy-to-decommission-wells-at-whicher-range/?cs=5825>

CalEnergy to decommission wells at Whicher Range

Emma Kirk, Busselton Mail, 07/02/2018

CalEnergy announced it will decommission the two exploration wells which have been used to test the potential for natural gas production at Whicher Range.

The Gasfield Free South West Alliance has called for the cancellation of a gas lease covering Whicher Range following the announcement.

Gasfield Free South West Alliance co-convenor Kathy Thomson said to give the community a real sense of relief the group would like CalEnergy to give the lease back to the government as soon as it has finished remediating the area.

"We remain concerned that the Whicher 5 well in the gasfield has more than 500,000 litres of lost diesel fracking fluid still sitting down the hole in what is a priority one water catchment area for the town of Margaret River," she said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/top-end-shale-gas-development-would-blow-australias-carbon-budget-tai-says-20180204-h0tc5m.html>

Top End shale gas development would blow Australia's carbon budget, TAI says

Peter Hannam, SMH, 05/02/2018

Developing the Northern Territory's onshore shale oil and gas resources could release the equivalent of 34 billion tonnes of carbon emissions, equal to 60 times Australia's current annual carbon pollution, according to The Australia Institute.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-06/origin-energy-nt-government-cover-up-misleading-fracking-inquiry/9401030>

Origin Energy, NT Government accused of cover-up, misleading fracking inquiry by Lock The Gate

Neda Vanovac, ABC, 06/02/2018

The Northern Territory Government and Origin Energy have misled a hy-



Too precious to frack up: opponents say the the NT's water should not be put at risk for shale gas development. Photo: West MacDonnell Ranges, Eve Sinton

draulic fracturing inquiry and provided it with false information regarding a failed well, the Lock the Gate Alliance has said.

Spokeswoman Naomi Hogan gave evidence to the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the NT on Tuesday, and said that over the week-end she had found a disparity between Origin Energy's submissions to the NT Government and to the inquiry.

http://lnk.edition.crikey.com.au/1/gpKvsOg-7hxCOeQPvdqw4C-Q?utm_source=TractionNext&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Insider-Subscribe-070218

Bigger than Adani: The NT 'carbon bomb' waiting to explode

Tim Forcey, Crikey, 07/02/2018

By itself, Queensland's proposed Adani coal mine would result in 5 billion tonnes of carbon-dioxide greenhouse gas emissions, an amount equivalent to a full-year of Australia's emissions from all sectors — times 10. Clearly, Adani is a "carbon-bomb".

But while one battle is being fought over Adani, even larger carbon bombs are planned elsewhere but receive less public scrutiny ... oil and gas companies plan to exploit gas shales at depths four kilometres below the surface of sites in the Northern Territory.

Given the large shale deposits of the Northern Territory, the potential for greenhouse gas emissions stemming from these fossil fuels are four-seven times larger than that of the Adani mine: 20-35 billion tonnes of carbon-dioxide, volumes equivalent to 40-70 years worth of Australia's annual emissions.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-07/origin-energy-assurances-nt-test-fracking-well-fault-questioned/9406046>

Origin assurances over NT test fracking well hitting natural fault line questioned by scientist

Jane Bardon, ABC, 07/02/2018

Assurances by Origin Energy that there was no cause for concern regarding its Amungee Mungee Station well in the Northern Territory hitting a natural fault have been questioned by an agricultural scientist.

Origin Energy chief geologist David Close told the inquiry that there was no need for concern over the well hitting the natural fault.

University of Queensland agricultural scientist Professor Peter Dart has carried out research on the effects of the gas industry on farmers in Queensland. He said he did not accept Origin's assurances there were no concerns that its well intersected with small fault lines.

Professor Dart said his research of gas industry impacts in Queensland had found that even small natural faults could be pathway for gas.

"The natural fault problem in the coal seam gas industry is evidenced by the bubbling in the Condamine River, for example," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-11/nt-fracking-inquiry-may-recommend-major-delay/9419460>

NT fracking inquiry may recommend major delay in industry resumption

Jane Bardon, ABC, 11/02/2018

There could be a significant delay

in the resumption of fracking in the Northern Territory, with the head of an inquiry considering whether to put the brakes on not just production, but exploration as well.

In December the Gunner Government's fracking inquiry recommended in its draft report that three years of scientific studies should be carried out before full-scale gas production could take place.

But now the head of the inquiry is considering whether to apply that timeframe to exploration as well.

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/fracking-industry-warns-three-year-delay-in-nt-would-cause-economic-harm/news-story/daac70df0cfb38ad598c5deda595d6b1>

Fracking industry warns three-year delay in NT would cause economic harm

Gary Shipway, NT News, 13/02/2018

Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association NT director Matthew Doman said he was concerned by reports the head of the NT's hydraulic fracturing inquiry was considering public recommendations on scientific studies that would cause delays to exploration.

"This will result in economic harm to those who seek to work in the gas industry and the local companies that want to work with our industry," Mr Doman said.

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theage.com.au/opinion/no-one-is-buying-the-minerals-councils-coal-slime-20180208-h0vrgc.html>

No one is buying the Minerals Council's coal 'slime'

Simon Holmes a Court, The Age, 09/02/2018

Today marks the first anniversary of Scott Morrison's extraordinary coal stunt. No doubt at the behest of the Minerals Council, the Treasurer held up a lump of lacquered coal in parliament in what appeared to be a testosterone-fuelled frenzy and berated us all: "This is coal — don't be afraid, don't be scared."

While Morrison later capitulated, admitting that adding new coal power would cost too much and take too long to build, the Minerals Council of Australia continues its coal campaign of half-truths.

The MCA's clean coal claims fall apart under the slightest scrutiny ...

HELE is not new ... nor is it efficient. And it is not cheap.

The MCA's other deceit is that carbon capture and storage is widely used overseas, yet ... the majority of projects

counted by the MCA have nothing to do with coal.

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/revolving-doors-how-the-fossil-fuel-lobby-has-governments-ensnared/>

Revolving Doors: how the fossil fuel lobby has governments ensnared

Sandi Keane, michaelwest.com.au, 09/02/2018

How did [the Adani mine] even get this far? That such a white elephant is still staggering about, not quite dead yet, and still hopeful of more taxpayer subsidies, is testament to the power of the coal lobby in Australia. It is testament to the prolific connections between the resources lobby and government, the "revolving doors" between industry, the major political parties and the bureaucracy. ...

We admit to being shocked at the extent of this influence at multiple levels of government. So far, we have managed to compile a list of well over 150 former and current politicians, political advisors and bureaucrats who have either moved from the fossil fuel and mining industries into public office or vice-versa over the past decade. These constitute a veritable army of lobbyists, senior executives, spin doctors and consultants acting with a single aim in mind: political and policy support for the fossil fuel industry and its allies in business and industry. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/matt-canavan-says-gas-prices-have-been-cut-in-half/news-story/d39a0e74bc8af31405a9436788b2a9c0>

Matt Canavan says gas prices have been cut in half

Ben Packham, The Australian, 12/02/2018

The Turnbull government says it has met its objective of halving domestic gas prices, while reassuring overseas gas buyers of the reliability of Australian LNG exports.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/queensland-mining-boom-industry-deserves-more-respect-qrc-says/news-story/6282012017302c7ef906031f274fb45c>

Queensland mining boom: Industry deserves more respect, QRC says

John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 12/02/2018

The Queensland Resources Council said the State Government should start showing some respect for an industry that will channel more than \$4 billion in royalties into Treasury this year.

Boosting those royalties is the unexpected boom in coal. Australian coal exports in 2017 hit a record of \$56.5 billion, 35 per cent higher than 2016

after coking and thermal coal prices spiked dramatically.

QRC's Ian Macfarlane said that was not expected to last but he said the Palaszczuk Government was not giving industry "due recognition".

Resources Minister Anthony Lynham said he would be disappointed if resource operators did not realise that their massive past and current contribution to Queensland's economy and communities was deeply appreciated. "My door and the phone line remain open to the industry."

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/our-beautiful-coal-must-rival-trumps-canavan/news-story/08fa1b117755bb2cec8477156a817b2ae>

Our 'beautiful coal' must rival Trump's: Canavan

Ben Packham, The Australian, 12/02/2018

Resources Minister Matt Canavan has warned that Australia's energy markets in Asia are under threat as the US ramps up exports of coal and gas under President Donald Trump.

Echoing Mr Trump, Senator Canavan described coal as a "beautiful industry", but he warned that "We cannot take our prized position in Asian energy markets for granted".

He said anti-fossil fuel groups were placing energy exports at risk, aided by the Labor Party, which had cast doubt on the \$16.5 billion Adani coalmine and opposed new gas developments at state level.

Senator Canavan said the coal industry was "a beautiful industry full of beautiful people who I constantly try and fight for".

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/barnaby-joyce-the-secret-that-inevitably-gave-birth-to-turmoil/news-story/c39dbe4f5e67e5b09d2966f0ec4f8a97>

Barnaby Joyce: the secret that inevitably gave birth to turmoil

Caroline Overington, The Australian, 09/02/2018

The Turnbull government went to enormous lengths to keep the Barnaby Joyce affair secret, a process that deserves scrutiny.

As everyone now knows, by the time the campaign for New England got under way last November, Joyce's personal life was in turmoil, and so was his office, with relationships between staff members and family members breaking down regularly, and spectacularly. Instead of forcing him to 'fess up, the government went into kill-and-bury mode, actively obstructing any attempt by any number of journalists to get to

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the bottom of the turmoil.

Senior Nationals MPs last year grew concerned about Joyce's erratic behaviour as he attempted to navigate his affair with Campion.

Joyce began moving against people who weren't sufficiently supportive of his leadership. Darren Chester found himself without a portfolio, dumped as infrastructure minister and from cabinet in a December reshuffle.

Queenslander Keith Pitt also found himself on the backbench. A Queensland senator, Barry O'Sullivan, is thought to have sided with Natalie Joyce, creating yet more tension. And then Joyce lost a key ally, his deputy, Fiona Nash.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2018/02/09/media-ethical-dilemma/>

Publish and be damned: The media's ethical dilemmas on private lives

Quentin Dempster, New Daily, 09/02/2013

The Barnaby Joyce saga is far from over.

Tony Windsor, Mr Joyce's former opponent in his seat of New England, has tweeted that there is more to come. He says there are other claims about Mr Joyce, who would be "petrified" if they reached the public domain.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/security-upgrade-for-joyces-armidale-love-nest/news-story/d01c69369967d9db076e311f97bed4ce>

Security upgrade for Joyce's Armidale love nest

Rick Morton, The Australian, 12/02/2018

The Armidale townhouse provided rent-free to Barnaby Joyce and his pregnant partner by an influential businessman has a "pretty thorough security upgrade" fitted by the new Department of Home Affairs.

The upgrade, examples of which cost up to \$3 million, is attached to Mr Joyce's role as Deputy Prime Minister but includes additions to the property that are permanent.

The Weekend Australian revealed the townhouse belongs to Greg Maguire, a long-time player in New England politics.



Barnaby Joyce's new Armidale home, rent free courtesy of a friend.

Photo: reviewproperty.com



The Knitting Nannas left booties at Barnaby Joyce's office during the Tamworth music festival, to remind him of his responsibility to protect future generations from coal and gas. They knew something! Photo: Dominique Jacobs

NT gas risks Australia's Paris commitment

The Australia Institute's [submission](#) to the NT fracking Inquiry has found that fully exploiting the Northern Territory's shale gas resources could result in emissions equivalent to sixty times Australia's total current annual emissions, equivalent to 130 new coal power plants operating for 40 years.

The submission also finds that the inquiry failed to follow its own Terms of Reference to consider the cumulative impacts of fracking, instead basing its risk assessment on a single gas field in isolation.

The Inquiry also ignored the impact of shale oil development, despite it being regarded as a key driver for NT fracking by Geoscience Australia and being actively perused by oil and gas companies.

"Even that single gas field would increase Australia's emissions by around 5% which would be a large and unacceptable increase of Australia's emissions at odds with our already modest Paris commitments," said Mark Ogge, Principal Advisor at The Australia Institute.

NT to be hit hard by global warming

"The Northern Territory will be amongst the hardest hit anywhere in the world by global warming.

"In Darwin the number of days over 35 degrees Celsius is expected to increase from 11 per year currently to 308 by 2070 without global action to reduce emissions."

"Heatwaves have killed more Australians than all other extreme weather events combined. NT Fracking will contribute to more frequent and intense heatwaves and should not be allowed to go ahead under any circumstances."

"The inquiry has failed to follow its own Terms of Reference. It has used a misleading "salami slicing" approach comparing small elements of fracking to total global emissions, and ignoring large ones, to hide the full impacts from Territorians," said Ogge.

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